

We claim:

1. A refractory article for use in the casting of molten metal comprising a refractory piece having a first outer surface, an insulating coating having a second outer surface and covering at least a portion of the first outer surface, and a glaze covering at least a portion of the second outer surface.
2. The refractory article of claim 1, wherein the refractory piece comprises a carbon-bonded refractory composition.
3. The refractory article of claim 1, wherein the refractory piece comprises a nozzle.
4. The refractory article of claim 3, wherein the nozzle comprises a thin-slab nozzle.
5. The refractory article of claim 1, wherein the insulating coating is made from an aqueous suspension comprising 20-80 wt.% ceramic matrix, 5-40 wt.% insulating microspheres, 0.5-15 wt.% one or more binders, 5-20 wt.% of a metal capable of melting under preheat conditions, and up to 25 wt.% water.
6. The refractory article of claim 1, wherein the glaze comprises a composition resistant to oxygen diffusion.
7. A nozzle comprising a carbon-bonded refractory composition having an outer surface at least partially covered by an insulating coating, the insulating coating comprising hollow microspheres and having a second outer surface, and a protective glaze covering at least a portion of the second outer surface.
8. The nozzle of claim 7, wherein the refractory composition comprises alumina and graphite.
9. A method for making a refractory article comprising:

